

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of creating an electronic document that is linked to
2 another electronic document, the method comprising:
3 displaying a view of a selected electronic document on a graphical user
4 interface;
5 receiving, while the view of the selected electronic document is being
6 displayed, a predetermined user input to create a new electronic document; and
7 creating the new electronic document in response to receiving the
8 predetermined user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the new
9 electronic document are linked to each other.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing that a user can
2 make any of a plurality of predetermined user inputs, each of the predetermined
3 user inputs causing a specific new electronic document to be created.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined user input is
2 made by selection of a user-selectable command in a menu of the graphical user
3 interface, and wherein the menu further includes another user-selectable
4 command for creating an electronic document that is not linked to the selected
5 electronic document.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined user input
2 specifies that the new electronic document is a follow-up of the selected
3 electronic document.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing an identifier in
2 association with at least one of the selected electronic document and the new
3 electronic document to link them to each other.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising using the identifier, while
2 a view of the new electronic document is being displayed, to provide access to
3 the selected electronic document.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising using the identifier, while
2 the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, to provide
3 access to the new electronic document.

1 8. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 making a determination, in response to receiving the predetermined user
3 input, that the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed; and
4 generating the identifier based on the determination.

1 9. The method of claim 5, wherein a first identifier is stored in
2 association with the selected electronic document and a second identifier is
3 stored in association with the new electronic document to link them to each other.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the selected electronic document is
2 also linked to at least one other electronic document and wherein a third identifier
3 is stored in association with the selected electronic document to link them to
4 each other.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected electronic document
2 is a follow-up of the at least one other electronic document.

1 12. A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information
2 carrier, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed,
3 cause a processor to perform operations comprising:
4 display a view of a selected electronic document on a graphical user
5 interface;
6 receive, while the view of the selected electronic document is being
7 displayed, a predetermined user input to create a new electronic document; and
8 create the new electronic document in response to receiving the
9 predetermined user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the new
10 electronic document are linked to each other.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the operations
2 further comprise:
3 store an identifier in association with at least one of the selected electronic
4 document and the new electronic document to link them to each other.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the operations
2 further comprise:
3 use the identifier, while a view of the new electronic document is being
4 displayed, to provide access to the selected electronic document.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the operations
2 further comprise:

3 use the identifier, while the view of the selected electronic document is
4 being displayed, to provide access to the new electronic document.

1 16. A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information
2 carrier, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed,
3 generate on a display device a graphical user interface for creating an electronic
4 document that is linked to another electronic document, the graphical user
5 interface comprising:

6 a document display area wherein a view of a selected electronic document
7 can be displayed; and

8 a user-selectable input control that creates a new electronic document
9 while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, wherein
10 the selected electronic document and the new electronic document are linked to
11 each other.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the graphical
2 user interface further comprises a plurality of user-selectable input controls, each
3 of which creates a specific new electronic document.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the graphical
2 user interface further comprises a menu that includes the user-selectable input
3 control and another user-selectable input control for creating an electronic
4 document that is not linked to the selected electronic document.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the user-
2 selectable input control provides that the new electronic document is a follow-up
3 of the selected electronic document.